

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEIn re Application

Inventor(s): Stephen P. DeOrnellas et al.

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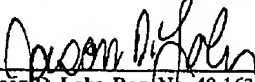
Title: METHOD FOR USING A HARD MASK FOR
USING A HARD MASK FOR CRITICAL
DIMENSION GROWTH CONTAINMENTPATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 1765

Examiner: L. Umez-Eronini

Customer No. 23910#3/B
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Jason D. Lohr, Reg. No. 48,163
Signature Date: May 3, 2002

(Attorney Signature)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced continuation case, please amend the
claims as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims as indicated below. All pending claims are included for
completeness. Marked up copies of the amended claims illustrating the changes are shown in the
appendix to this Preliminary Amendment.